

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video switching apparatus comprising:  
video input selecting means for switching to select at least one of a plurality of video inputs signals;  
output means for outputting the selected video input signal to a recording/reproducing apparatus;  
recording/reproduction detecting means for analyzing a video signal from said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether the recording/reproducing apparatus is in a recording mode or a reproduction mode; and  
control means for switching its own operation mode to a recording mode or a reproducing mode on the basis of a result determined by said recording/reproduction detecting means.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means has discriminating means for comparing a signal set at random in said video switching apparatus with a signal multiplexed in a video output signal of said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of a comparison result.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for comparing in phase a sync

signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording/reproducing apparatus with a sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and determining that said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode in the case where the comparison result indicates that phases of the compared sync signals are nearly equal to each other.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for comparing in phase a sync signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording/reproducing apparatus with a sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and determining that said recording apparatus is in the reproduction mode in the case where the comparison result indicates phases of the compared sync signals are not nearly equal to each other.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes: discriminating means for comparing a horizontal sync signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording reproducing apparatus with a horizontal sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproducing mode; and control

means for switching an operating mode to the recording mode or the reproducing mode on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating means.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for determining that said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode when a video transmission cable from said recording/reproducing apparatus is not connected.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for displaying information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating means.

8. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for displaying information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating means.

9. An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising means for displaying information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating means.

10. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for displaying information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of

a discrimination result of said discriminating means.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to an outside on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating mean.

12. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to an outside on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating mean.

13. An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to an outside on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating mean.

14. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to an outside on the basis of a discrimination result of said discriminating mean.